IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) An image processing method for processing an input document image, said method comprising the steps of:

displaying an instruction input window to receive [[an]] a first instruction and a second instruction from a user ~~as to~~, wherein the first instruction indicates whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually, and wherein the second instruction indicates whether or not a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected;

determining, based on the [[user]] first instruction received in the instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually;

automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected;

automatically rotating the document image based on the discriminated orientation of the document image if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected;

[[and]]

rotating the document image according to a rotation angle of one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees instructed by the user if it is determined in said determining step that

the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be manually corrected; and

if it is determined based on the second instruction that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, automatically correcting the tilt of the document image which is rotated in said automatic rotating step or in said rotating step.

26. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said automatic discrimination step includes outputting data indicating that the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated, when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

27. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said automatic discrimination step includes discriminating the orientation of the document image by character-recognizing character images included in the document image.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to claim 26, further comprising a step of storing the outputted data as information relating to the document image when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

30. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 25, ~~wherein the displayed instruction input window further receives an instruction from the user as to whether a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, the method~~ further comprising a step of automatically ~~correcting the tilt of the document~~

~~image if the user instructs that~~ setting the second instruction so that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, if the first instruction is set by the user so that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected.

31. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim [[30]] 25, wherein the tilt angle of the document image is within ±45 degrees.

32. (Currently Amended) An image processing device for processing an input document image, comprising:

means for displaying an instruction input window to receive [[an]] a first instruction and a second instruction from a user ~~as to~~, wherein the first instruction indicates whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually, and wherein the second instruction indicates whether or not a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected;

means for determining, based on the [[user]] first instruction received in the instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually;

means for automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees if said determining means determines that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected;

means for automatically rotating the document image based on the discriminated orientation of the document image if said determining means determines that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected; [[and]]

means for rotating the document image according to a rotation angle of one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees instructed by the user if said determining means determines that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be manually corrected; and

if it is determined based on the second instruction that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, automatically correcting the tilt of the document image which is rotated by said automatic rotating means or by said rotating means.

33. (Previously Presented) An image processing device according to claim 32, wherein said means for automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image outputs data indicating that the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

34. (Previously Presented) An image processing device according to claim 32, wherein said means for automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image discriminates the orientation of the document image by character-recognizing character images included in the document image.

35. (Canceled).

36. (Previously Presented) An image processing device according to claim 33, further comprising means for storing the outputted data as information relating to the document image when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

37. (Currently Amended) An image processing device according to claim 32, ~~wherein the displayed instruction input window further receives an instruction from the user as to whether a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, the image processing device~~ further comprising means for automatically ~~correcting the tilt of the document image if the user instructs that~~ setting the second instruction so that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, if the first instruction is set by the user so that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected.

38. (Currently Amended) An image processing device according to claim [[30]] 32, wherein the tilt angle of the document image is within ±45 degrees.

39. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium containing a program for executing processing of an input document image, the program comprising code for:

displaying an instruction input window to receive [[an]] a first instruction and a second instruction from a user ~~as to~~, wherein the first instruction indicates whether the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually, and wherein the second instruction indicates whether or not a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected;

determining, based on the [[user]] first instruction received in the instruction input window, whether the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be corrected automatically or manually;

automatically discriminating the orientation of the document image as one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected;

automatically rotating the document image based on the discriminated orientation of the document image if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected; [[and]]

rotating the document image according to a rotation angle of one of 0, 90, 180 and 270 degrees instructed by the user if it is determined in said determining step that the user has instructed that the orientation of the document image should be manually corrected; and

if it is determined based on the second instruction that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, automatically correcting the tilt of the document image which is rotated in said automatic rotating step or in said rotating step.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 39, wherein said code for automatic discrimination causes outputting of data indicating that the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

41. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 39, wherein said code for automatic discrimination causes discrimination of the orientation of the document image by character-recognizing character images included in the document image.

42. (Canceled).

43. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 40, further comprising code for storing the outputted data as information

relating to the document image when the orientation of the document image cannot be discriminated.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim 39, ~~wherein the displayed instruction input window further receives an instruction from the user as to whether a tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, the storage medium~~ further comprising code for automatically ~~correcting the tilt of the document image if the user instructs that~~ setting the second instruction so that the tilt of the document image should be automatically corrected, if the first instruction is set by the user so that the orientation of the document image should be automatically corrected.

45. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to claim [[44]] 39, wherein the tilt angle of the document image is within ±45 degrees.